

I claim:

1           1. A computer system for verifying a commercial transaction between an account-holder  
2 and a merchant, said computer system comprising:

3           a processing unit for processing data and code; and

4           a memory device for storing said data and said code,

5           said code including a merchant communications module operative to facilitate a

6           connection with said merchant for receiving a transaction approval request

7           including a complete account number associated with said account-holder,

8           said data including at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said

9           account-holder, and

10          said code further including an authorization module responsive to said transaction

11          approval request and operative to compare said transaction approval request

12          with said pre-verification criteria, and to verify said transaction approval

13          request if said at least one pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

1           2. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:

2           said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification

3           criteria; and

4           said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request if at

5           least one of said plurality of pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

1           3. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:

2           said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification

3           criteria; and

4           said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request only

5           if all of said plurality of pre-verification criteria are satisfied.

1           4. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria are

2 determined by said account-holder.

1 5. A computer system according to Claim 1, further comprising an account-holder  
2 communications module operative to:  
3 receive a connection request from said account-holder;  
4 establish a connection with said account-holder;  
5 authenticate said account-holder;  
6 present at least one of said pre-verification criteria to said account-holder; and  
7 receive modification instructions for said one of said pre-verification criteria from  
8 said account holder.

1 6. A computer system according to Claim 5, wherein, prior to receiving said  
2 modification instructions from said account-holder, none of said pre-verification criteria can be  
3 satisfied by said transaction approval request.

1 7. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria  
2 include at least one merchant identifier.

1 8. A computer system according to Claim 7, wherein said authorization module,  
2 responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:  
3 compare said merchant transmitting said transaction approval request with each of  
4 said merchant identifiers; and  
5 verify said transaction approval request if said merchant sending said transaction  
6 approval request is identified by one of said merchant identifiers.

1 9. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria  
2 include a maximum pre-verified purchase price.

1 10. A computer system according to Claim 9, wherein said authorization module,  
2 responsive to receipt of a transaction approval request is operative to:  
3 compare a purchase price contained within said transaction approval request with said  
4 maximum pre-verified purchase price; and  
5 verify said transaction approval request if said purchase price contained within said  
6 transaction approval request is less than said maximum pre-verified purchase  
7 price.

1 11. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria  
2 include a begin date and an end date.

1 12. A computer system according to Claim 11, wherein said authorization module,  
2 responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:  
3 compare a purchase date contained within said transaction approval request with said  
4 begin date and said end date; and  
5 verify said transaction approval request if said purchase date falls between said begin  
6 date and said end date.

1 13. In a computer system, a method for verifying a commercial transaction between an  
2 account-holder and a merchant, said method comprising:  
3 storing at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said account-holder;  
4 receiving a transaction approval request from said merchant, said transaction approval  
5 request including a complete account number associated with said account-holder;  
6 comparing said transaction approval request to said pre-verification criteria; and  
7 verifying said transaction approval request if said pre-verification criteria are met.

1 14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein:

2 said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of  
3 pre-verification criteria; and

4 said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said  
5 transaction approval request if at least one of said pre-verification criteria is  
6 satisfied.

1 15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein:

2 said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of  
3 pre-verification criteria; and

4 said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said  
5 transaction approval request only if all of said pre-verification criteria are  
6 satisfied.

1 16. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one pre-verification criteria is  
2 determined by said account-holder.

1 17. A method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

2 establishing a connection with said account-holder;

3 authenticating said account-holder; and

4 allowing said account-holder to modify said pre-verification criteria associated with  
5 said account-holder.

1 18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein, none of said pre-verification criteria can  
2 be satisfied prior to modification by said account-holder.

1 19. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes at least one  
2 merchant identifier.

05760271.01201

1 20. A method according to Claim 19, wherein:  
2 said pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of merchant identifiers;  
3 said transaction approval request is verified if said merchant is identified by one of  
4 said plurality of merchant identifiers.

1 21. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes a  
2 pre-verified purchase price.

1 22. A method according to Claim 21, wherein said transaction approval request is  
2 verified if a purchase price identified in said transaction approval request is less than said pre-  
3 verified purchase.

1 23. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes at  
2 least one pre-verification date.

1 24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein:  
2 said pre-verification criteria includes at least one pair of pre-verification dates; and  
3 said transaction approval request is verified if a transaction date included in said  
4 transaction approval request falls between said pre-verification dates.

1 25. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 13.

1 26. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 14.

1 27. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 15.

1 28. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 16.

0975037-01401  
T02T0-T225250

1 29. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 17.

1 30. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 18.

1 31. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 19.

1 32. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 20.

1 33. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 21.

1 34. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 22.

1 35. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 23.

1 36. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an  
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 24.